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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 000144

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR EUR/SCE, EUR/RPM, EUR/WE

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/14/2013

TAGS: [PARM](#) [PREL](#) [BK](#) [HR](#) [SR](#) [IT](#) [OSCE](#)

SUBJECT: GOI ON DAYTON ARMS CONTROLS NEXT STEPS

REF: STATE 5730

CLASSIFIED BY: A/POLITICAL MINISTER COUNSELOR GARY ROBBINS. REASON: 1.
5 (B)(D).

1. (C) ACCORDING TO MFA OSCE OFFICE DIRECTOR FABIO CRISTIANI, THE GOI CONCURS WITH USG POLICY OBJECTIVES FOR THE DAYTON ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENT FOR THE NEXT 12-18 MONTHS AS OUTLINED REFTEL. HE TOLD POLOFF ON DECEMBER 10 THAT HE AGREED WITH THE NEED FOR CONTACT GROUP PRESSURE ON THE PARTIES FOR PROGRESS ON ARTICLE IV ISSUES. HOWEVER, THE GOI WOULD RATHER NOT LINK THE TIMELINE FOR PROGRESS TO GEN. ZAPPULLA'S MANDATE AS OSCE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE. ZAPPULLA'S TERM IN OFFICE "DEPENDS ON MANY FACTORS" CONTINUED CRISTIANI, AND WE SHOULD NOT ALLOW A CHANGE IN THAT TERM TO GIVE THE PARTIES AN EXCUSE FOR LACK OF PROGRESS. THE CONTACT GROUP SHOULD PRESENT TO THE PARTIES A 12-18 MONTH ENDPOINT WITH MEASURABLE BENCHMARKS, WITH NO LINK TO ZAPPULLA'S DEPARTURE.

2. (C) THE GOI AGREES WITH THE USG CURRENT EVALUATION ON ABUSE OF THE EXCEPTIONS REGIME, BUT IS LESS PESSIMISTIC ON FUTURE PROGRESS. BASED ON ZAPPULLA'S OWN RECENT EVALUATION, CRISTIANI HOPED THAT STATE INSPECTIONS COULD BEGIN THIS SPRING. SIMILARLY ON DECOMMISSIONING, THE GOI AGREES THAT THE PARTIES SHOULD MOVE UP THE AGREED DATE FOR ELIMINATING EQUIPMENT, BUT WONDERED WHETHER THIS ACCELERATION WOULD REQUIRE ADDITIONAL FUNDS, AND WHERE THOSE FUNDS WOULD COME FROM. NONETHELESS, THE GOI WOULD JOIN ANY CONTACT GROUP EFFORTS TO ACCELERATE THESE PROCESSES.

3. (C) CRISTIANI THOUGHT THAT THIS WAS ALSO A GOOD TIME TO MOVE ARTICLE II RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE OSCE MISSION IN SARAJEVO. HE FORESAW NO PROBLEM WITH OTHER CG MEMBERS (INCLUDING WITH RUSSIA) IN IMPLEMENTING THIS PROPOSAL.
SKODON